

3-1-79

# Wally Trabing's Mostly about People



## New Material On Local Indians

This was Indian country.

It is figured that some 10,000 Ohlone people lived in about 40 tribes between S.F. Bay and Monterey Bay.

Around Santa Cruz they were called Hordean; there were sub tribes in Soquel and Aptos and up near Davenport, the Oljone. They were said to be muscular people whose lives averaged 40 years. Two hundred years ago and thousands of years before that, they lived here in a land of abundance, and in relative harmony.

\* \* \*

A three-year study by Harvard grad Malcolm Margolin has produced an excellent revealing look-back of these early coastal people through his new book, "The Ohlone Way," (Heyday Books, \$4.95.)

Probably more important than the scores of diaries and reports by ship captains and explorers when the Ohlones were being adversely affected by outsiders, was the work of anthropologists, such as John Harrington, who took some 300,000 pages of notes. Margolin said he "ran from death bed to death bed" of elderly Indians obsessed with recording their memories.

He uses these studies to reconstruct their villages and their lifestyle. Each village had sweat houses, early day saunas, where men scraped their bodies clean with sharp deer bones.

They were not into agriculture, the author speculates, because the need was not there. Insects, rodents, wildlife, seeds and berries and acorns were plentiful.

They prowled among the deer herds as hunters by encasing themselves in deer heads and skins.

A chief headed each village and served as long as he had respect from the people. They were hunter gatherers and moved their villages to follow the crops, as it were, but within 100 square miles.

Margolin submits that local Indians were not backward, but rather sophisticated in their lifestyle and community laws and lived in relative peace. They loved to dance.

Because of certain taboos between men and women, where sex was not practiced during hunting periods and for a long period after a child was born, the population was kept stable.

Margolin said "rather than valuing possessions, the Ohlones valued generosity." There was little hoarding of wealth; the most precious baskets were expected to be thrown on the funeral pyre of a deceased friend.

There are few of these fine baskets still existing, one being prized at the Santa Cruz City Museum. There seem to be a variety of languages spoken in the Santa Cruz area; a triblet a few miles away could not be understood. There were marriages and divorces.

Attacks on villages did occur and there were killings, but usually this made the chiefs look bad and they tended to discourage battles. The author describes a "line-battle" between villages to avenge a raped woman. The fighters stood apart yelling at each other; arrows flew and a man among the "guilty" people was killed. The chiefs conferred and the battle ended with both sides feasting together.

The Ohlones lived in a world swarming with power and magic. They dwelled in a reasonable way with this religion until the missions came, cruelly forcing on them a foreign religion. Talk about your Jonestown. The mission law was suicide to the Indians. It was the seed that wiped out a nation. It was religion at its worse.

# Arcadian Requiremen

By KEITH MURAOKA  
Sentinel Staff Writer

The developer of a proposed two-story retail shops complex and restaurant at the Arcadian Gardens in Capitola Village has dropped his requirement that the city pay a \$120,000 for use of a 43-space off-street parking lot.

Peter Lance Bwares, a San Francisco attorney, met with the City Council Wednesday to discuss his proposal for the former Capitola bowling alley which was converted into the Arcadian Gardens in 1974 by the late Alvin Feinstein. It is located along San Jose Avenue at the Esplanade.

Last week, Councilman Robert Garcia presented the council Bwares' proposal which included the city tearing down the existing building at a cost of \$20,000, and then purchasing the parking lot for \$100,000. The city, led by Acting City Manager Bill Clarke, had hoped the parking lot would alleviate its severe parking problems in the village.

However, councilmembers were adamant that the city not pay for the parking since parking in the past was secured through dedication. Bwares agreed and dropped the parking requirement saying, "We think we can still make a profit without the \$120,000." He noted, however, that "our shops will have priority in parking."

Councilman Ron Graves suggested the use of parking meters so customers of all the shops will have parking, and beach-goers would not take them up. A two-hour time limit was proposed.

The council also is concerned about the "flavor" of the architecture, wanting to make sure it blends in with the rest of Capitola. Bwares agreed, saying, "You want flavor and that is what our intentions are from the beginning. Our objective has always been to create an attractive structure which will blend in with Capitola and enhance the area."

Other points discussed included: restrooms available to the public, a rooftop deck for dining in conjunction with the restaurant, landscaping and the height of the two-story complex. Clarke noted anything more than 25 feet would require a use permit, but Bwares thinks



Artist Michael Harney's conception of Ohlone Indian village.